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ATHERSTONE,

March, 1938.

To the Atherstone Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of presenting my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

1.—The district consists of twelve parishes. The population at the 1931 Census was 21,869, distributed as follows:—

WARWICKSHIRE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ansley	1059	1012	2071.
Atherstone	3085	3160	6245
Baddesley Ensor	843	760	1603
Baxterley	215	193	408
Bentley	139	118	257
Caldecote	84	49	133
Grendon	644	612	1256
Hartshill	1292	1250	2542
Mancetter	353	349	702
Merevale	42	60	102
Oldbury	37	47	84
Polesworth	3407	3059	6466
			21,869

The estimate of resident population at mid-year 1937 is 21,730—and it is on this figure that the vital statistics have been taken.

Deaths of persons serving with H.M. Forces are allocated to their area of residence.

2.—The vital statistics reckoned on the figure of 21,730 are as follows:—

	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total	Rate per 1000 Population
Live Births	350	8	358	16.4
Still Births	20	2	22	
Deaths			225	10.3

For England and Wales the live birth rate was 14.9; and the death rate 12.4 per 1000 of population.

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year in the district during 1937 was 22, giving an infant mortality of 61.4 per 1000 live births.

Deaths in the district during 1937 were due to:—

Nephritis 10; Premature birth and Congenital debility 12; Suicide 3; Other Violence 11; Diabetes 2; Cebral Hæmorrhage 15; Heart Disease 65; Bronchitis 7; Pneumonia 13; Appendicitis 1; Whooping Couch 1; Diphtheria 3; Influenza 4; Cerebro-spinal Fever 2; Pulmonary Tuberculosis 8; Other Tuberculosis 3; Cancer 27.

3.—INFANT WELFARE.—There are Infant Welfare Centres at Atherstone, Hartshill and Dordon. Each Centre is managed by a Committee of ladies, who give their services and time to the work. The County Health Visitor and the local Maternity Nurses are present. A medical man attends every other week.

4.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The number of cases of infectious and Notifiable diseases notified during 1937 was:—

Scarlet Fever 27; Diphtheria 41; Pneumonia 88; Erysipelas 13; Puerperal pyrexia 1.

5.—ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—110 Cases were treated in the Hospital during 1937. Namely—53 cases of Scarlet Fever and 51 cases of Diphtheria. There were two deaths from diphtheria in Hospital.

The Nursing Staff has done its work throughout the year to my satisfaction.

I am, Yours truly,

HENRY R. FISHER, M.B. & B.Ch. (Cantab),
M.O.H.

HOUSING STATISTICS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	570
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2215
(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	25
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	85
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	29

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	438

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(*a*)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(*a*) By owners	3
(*b*) By Local Authoritity in default of owners	—

(*b*)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(*a*) By owners	17
(*b*) By Local Authoritity in default of owners	—

(*c*)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8

(*d*)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	141
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	154
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	742
(*b*)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
(*c*)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	39
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	233½
(*d*)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(*e*)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

H. R. FISHER,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my 29th annual report dealing with work carried out in my department during the year ending 31st December, 1937.

NUISANCES AND SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

207 notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances and other sanitary requirements. Most of these have been complied with, the few outstanding have now been dealt with.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

The conversion of ashpit privies into water closets has been very nearly completed throughout the district. 75 houses have been provided with water closets in place of insanitary conveniences during the year. This cannot be done in outlying parts of the district, where no sewer is available. The removal of ashpits and provision of galvanized iron ashbins, in place thereof, has been proceeding very satisfactorily. 244 houses have been dealt with in this manner.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is undertaken by your Council in the Parishes of Ansley, Atherstone, Baddesley, Grendon, Hartshill, Mancetter, Polesworth. The work generally has been carried out quite satisfactorily excepting in the Parish of Grendon and part of the Parish of Polesworth. One unsatisfactory contractor had his contract terminated and the new contractor is giving satisfaction. On the termination of the contracts in the Parish of Polesworth, your Council introduced direct labour to carry out this work, which was in operation for six months till the end of the year. The work has been carried out very satisfactorily.

The cost of this work based on present contracts, etc., is as follows:—

Ansley ..... £250 per year, or 9/7½d. per house per year; or 2-3/10d. weekly.
*Atherstone ..... £800 per year, or 10/10 per house per year; or 2½d. weekly.
Baddesley ..... £140 per year, or 7/0 per house per year, or 1½d. weekly.
Grendon ..... £150 per year, or 7/9½ per house per year, or 1-4/5d. weekly.
Hartshill ..... £350 per year, or 10/0 per house per year, or 2d. weekly.
Mancetter ..... £90 10s. per year, or 6/6 per house per year, or 1½d. weekly.
Polesworth ..... £710 per year, or 8/8 per house per year, or 2d. weekly.

*This does not provide for depreciation and renewal of vehicles, but does include maintainance of the "tips."

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The registers now contain the names of 105 persons who are engaged in the production of milk for sale in the district; 74 wholesalers; and 31 who retail the milk they produce. In addition to these, there are 16 retailers who obtain their milk from various wholesalers, of from outside the district. Eight certificates of registration have been granted during the year, and six names removed from the register, they having given up farming or having left the district. 53 producers are granted licenses to produce "accredited" milk. One new cowshed has been built, and various necessary improvements have been carried out at six other cowsheds. 25 samples of milk were taken for analysis for the presence of T.B. bacilli. Four of these showed these organisms to be present. Particulars of these were forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health, who took any necessary action. It may be of interest to state that the number of cows kept at these registered premises for the production of milk for sale is 2,336.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

The register now contains particulars of 72 workshops and 8 factories in the district. Four notices were served during the year, three because of the need for cleansing and one for sanitary defects.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All houses where infectious disease has been present have been disinfected with Formalin vapour or spray, and the bedding and clothing was removed and passed through the steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

I have found it necessary to carry out the disinfectation of 24 houses, the tenants of which were being re-housed in consequence of this Council's Slum Clearance programme. In many cases I have succeeded in persuading the tenants to obtain entirely new furniture to take into their new homes, and to destroy their old furniture by burning. I have also disinfested seven other houses in the district.

WATER SUPPLY.

As the district is so admirably served in every part by this Council's mains, and very few houses are without a piped supply laid on, as the result of the work of previous years, I find that it has only been necessary to take four samples of water for analysis from the wells in various parts of the district. These related to eleven houses. Two of the samples showed the water to be of good quality. This affected three houses, the other eight houses were provided with a supply from your Council's mains.

HOUSING.

The past year has been a very strenuous one with regard to this very important part of my activities. The year 1937 saw the end of your Five-year programme and 132 houses were scheduled for demolition for the past year. Objections were laid against the Orders relating to 80 houses. A Ministerial Enquiry was held in April last, and in no case was the objection sustained. With the completion of this programme, and with the inclusion of the 70 houses dealt with under The Nelson Yard area, there have been no less than 334 houses demolished in the district since these schemes were put into operation. 42 houses have also been made reasonably fit.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

Thirteen boats were inspected during the year. No infringements of the Acts or Regulations governing these were found. No case of infectious disease was discovered. The boat cabins were kept in a clean condition, and the condition of repair of the boats was good. The registered accommodation was for 41½ persons. Occupying were 11 men, 12 women and 11 children, a total of 34 persons.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Licenses were granted to 51 persons to slaughter animals in preparation for food, an increase of two on the previous year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There are now 34 registered or licensed slaughter houses in the district. These premises have been periodically visited and the carcases of the animals inspected. Many of these premises are visited several times weekly. The meat offered for sale in this district is of very good quality. There has been surrendered and I have had destroyed, 6 carcases of beef, part of one other carcase, and 3 pigs' heads.

I am, Gentlemen, Your Obedient Servant,

SAMUEL BECK,

Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute, Cert. London San. Board, M.S.I.A.